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LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 7 May 1985

1. (Williams) The following points were developed during several conversations with [] on 6 May:

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- Some elements of [] the news bureau and the language departments serving the broadcasters, have received a partial form of automation--word processors and electronic data distribution of press agency materials. This means that the translators and script writers now have current reportage appearing in their own offices and do not have to wait around for [] to deliver the material to them. They like to work from the wire services and are particularly fond of sources like AFP which give them shorter versions of a story than those provided by BBC or FBIS and often include the background information they need. As a result, the Monitoring Service finds itself falling more and more into the posture of a service which provides only background or peripheral reporting on events of interest to the news and language services. This is one of the reasons, aside from a general inability to get a grip on his requirements, that [] is hesitant to make reductions in the FBIS file to ease the over-loading on the Caversham [] circuit. He concedes that the information he now is providing the other parts [] is often very late, but he presumably fears that any reduction in the file could reopen the general question about whether or not [] really is needed. He indicated that this question is not quite dead, despite the two lengthy investigations of recent years which seemed to put it permanently at rest. It is impossible to judge how much, if any weight, to give to this statement.

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- [] is not contemplating any improvements in its antenna field. They are considering some form of remote monitoring, perhaps from the [] area, as they are once again coming under pressure from BBC to do something about monitoring of GDR regionals.

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